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RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1949.

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Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—

H. E. DUNSTAN, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector—

EDWIN JOICEY, F.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Ryton Tower,
Ryton.
1st July, 1950.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Ryton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The general health of the district continues to be maintained at a satisfactory level, and there have been no serious outbreaks of any of the infectious disease groups. Both scarlet fever and diphtheria remain at extremely low figures, and the one outbreak of food poisoning, the source of which was outside the district, was limited to one family.

Although, in spite of many difficulties, progress has been maintained with the provision of new houses, it is still necessary to emphasise the urgent need for more and more.

I have again to to record my appreciation of the Sanitary Inspector's willing and constant help, both in the administration of the Health Services of the district and the compiling of this report. My thanks are also due to the other Council Officials for their valued help in many ways.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. DUNSTAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The acreage remains at 5,145.

Population. According to 1931 Census was 14,204.

Population — Estimated 13,910

Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31st December, 1949. according to rate books) = 3,955

Rateable Value (at 1st October 1949) = £56,820

Sum Represented by Penny Rate (1st April, 1949) = £202/16/1

Physical Features and General Character of the Area. The Ryton Urban District is situated on the north-west extremity of the county and is bounded on the north by the Tyne, on the south and east by tributaries of the river known as the local burns, the Barlow Burn and the Blaydon Burn which separate it from the Blaydon Urban District, and on the west by the Stanley Burn which forms the boundary between Ryton Urban District and the County of Northumberland.

The Urban District is divided into four wards, named Crookhill, Ryton, Crawcrook and Ryton Woodside. The Ryton and Crawcrook wards although much lower than the Greenside (600 ft.) and the country to the south, stand well above the level of the Tyne which is about a mile to the north of Crawcrook and about half a mile north of Ryton, and have excellent natural drainage. The only low-lying parts of the district are the areas near to the river at Clara Vale and at Ryton Haughs where there are two rows of houses near Newburn Bridge.

The greater part of this district is agricultural. There is One Brick Yard and there are a few Stone, Sand and Gravel Quarries. Most of the population is employed at the Collieries, of which there are five, situated at Greenside, Clara Vale, Barmoor, Stargate and Addison.

The soil is clay and sand.

Births. The total number of live births was 201, of which 102 were males and 99 females, a decrease on last year of 16. The number of births for 1948 was 217 and for 1947 was 265. Of the total live births 8 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population for the year, i.e., the excess of the births over deaths, was 74 as against the natural increase for the previous year of 69.

THE LIVE BIRTH RATE for the year was 14·45 as against that of 15·80 for 1948. This was lower than the rate for the Administrative County (18 7) and for England and Wales (16·7).

Deaths. The total number of deaths was 127, comprising 76 males and 51 females. This corresponds to an annual death rate of 9·13 that for the administrative county being 11·5 and that for England and Wales, 11·7. The number of deaths in 1948 was 148, giving a death rate of 10·77.

Infantile Deaths. The number of deaths registered under one year was 7, 4 males and 3 females. The infantile death rate was 35, that of the county 44, and that of England and Wales 32.

A graph comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County and England and Wales, is appended. (Page ~~8~~). 9

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. None..

Respiratory Diseases. There were 3 deaths from pneumonia, 7 from bronchitis and 2 from other respiratory diseases, excluding phthisis, giving a death rate of ·86

Tuberculosis. Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 5 deaths as compared with 4 in 1948 representing a Phthisis mortality of 0·36. There were no deaths from other tubercular disease.

The total tuberculosis mortality was therefore 0.36 as compared with the county rate of 0 56.

Cancer. Deaths due to cancer numbered 18 compared with 22 during 1948. 11 were males and 7 females, giving a death rate of 1·29.

Diseases of Circulatory System. Heart disease caused 34 deaths, intracranial vascular lesions caused 20 and other diseases of circulatory system caused 3 deaths, making in all 57 deaths. This total represents a death rate of 4·09.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	193	99	94	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **14·45**
	Illegitimate	8	3	5	
Still Births	Legitimate	5	3	2	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births **24·27**
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths		127	76	51	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **9·13**

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30 Other maternal causes		—
Total ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	35
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	26
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Nursing and Ambulance Services.

The nursing services both general and maternity and also the ambulance services are now administered by the County Council.

Laboratory Work. This is now carried out by the Central Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle, to which specimens may be sent and examined free of charge to the patient or practitioner.

Hospital Provision.

Infectious Diseases. The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of this district.

During the year 13 cases were admitted from the Ryton area.

General. Hospital facilities for this district are provided by the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there were 226 cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and of these 188 were due to Measles, 4 Diphtheria, and 11 to Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of infectious diseases within the district can in no wise be deemed unsatisfactory.

Enteric.—One notified.

Smallpox.—No cases notified.

Diphtheria. 4 cases were notified, 3 of which were removed to hospital.

Scarlet Fever. 11 cases were notified, 10 of which were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. 25 cases were notified during 1948.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No cases were notified.

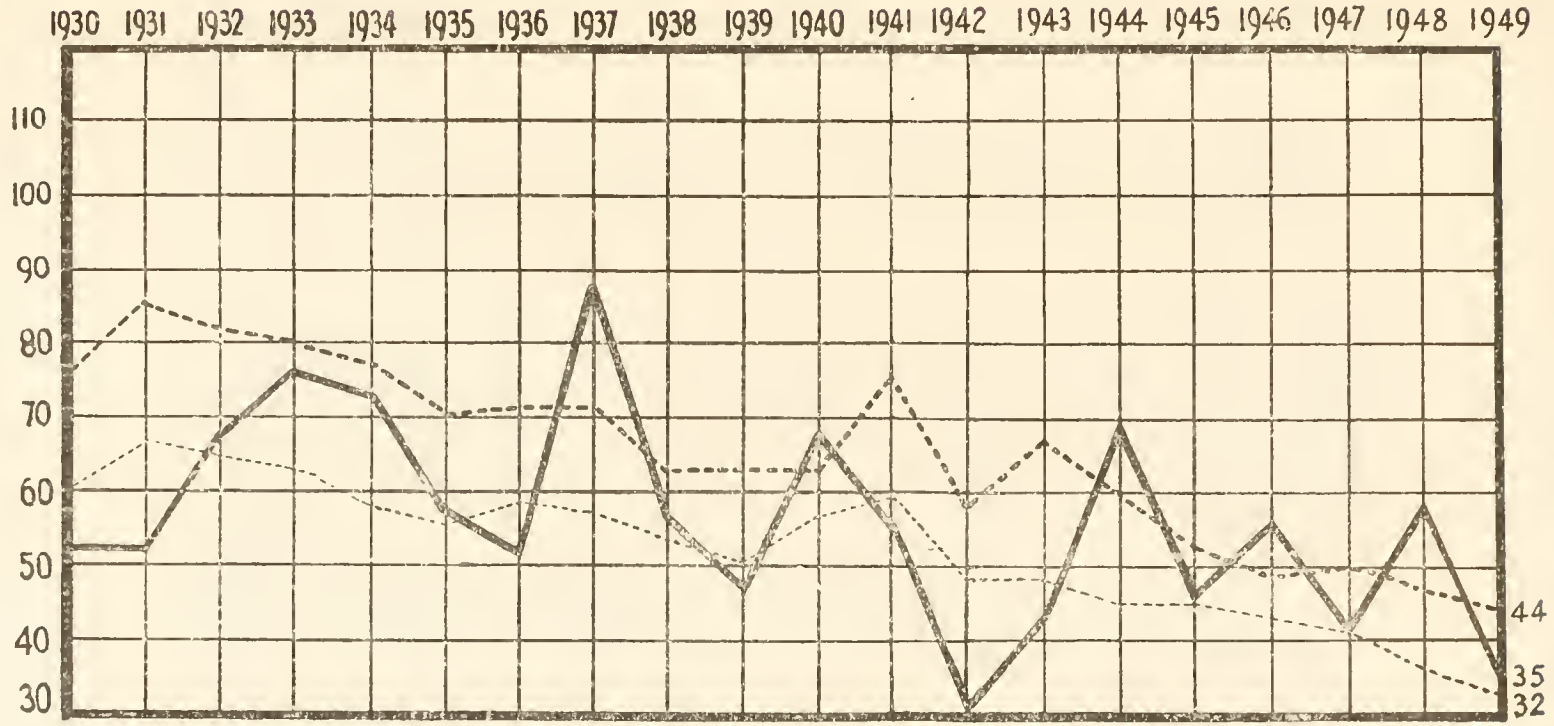
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. No cases notified.

Erysipelas. 4 cases were notified during the year as compared with 4 cases during 1948.

Measles. 188 cases were notified, as compared with 140 in 1948.

Whooping Cough. 11 cases were notified during the year; there were no deaths.

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County, England and Wales since 1930.



Ryton
Durham County
England and Wales.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5	1	1	1					
15	1	5		2		3		
25	1	2						
35					1			
45					1			
55								
65 & upwards								
Total	3	8	1	2	2	3		

Food Poisoning.

Total number of outbreaks.	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with No. of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with No. of outbreaks of each
1	4	Nil	Salmonella Typhi - murium.	Cream Cakes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

BLOOD					BLOOD								URINE					
Serological Examinations Enteric Fever			Culture		Enteric		Dysentery		Food Poisoning Salmonella Typhi Murium, etc.		Organisms		Enteric		Organisms		Tuberculosis	
Positive		Negative																
Typhosus			No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive
									8	1	5				1			

SWABS (THROAT, NASAL AND EAR)										SPUTUM				Miscellaneous	
Diptheria (Culture)		Diptheria (virulence)		Hœmolytic Streptococci		Vincent's Angina		Organisms		Tuberculosis		Tuberculosis*			
No. of Specimens	Positive	No of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Virulent	No of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive
7	1			3	2	1		1		15	11	86	15		

*These are tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria

†This section is comprised of examinations of C.S. Fluid (including biological examinations for tuberculosis); Sputum for organisms; Pus for organisms. Pleural fluid; Miscellaneous for material for pathogens, serum for agglutination for leptospira icterohæmorrhagiae.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over 65	Total	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...			4		1	5		1					11	10
Diphtheria ...				1		1			2				4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...														
Pneumonia ...											1		1	
Opth. Neon. ...														
Erysipelas ...										1	2	1	4	
Cerebro spinal Meningitis														
Whooping Cough ...		2	1	2		6							11	
Measles ...	8	6	26	33	27	76	2						188	
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	1						1				4	
Dysentery ..														
Ac. Poliomyelitis .					1	1							2	
Enteric or typhoid fever										1			1	

Grand Total 226

Incidence of Principal Infectious Diseases since 1940

Year	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric		Measles		Whooping Cough	
	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths	Cases Notified	deaths
1940	2	—	23	3	2	—	77	—	—	—
1941	11	—	11	—	—	—	92	—	41	—
1942	26	—	14	—	—	—	86	—	—	—
1943	21	—	12	—	1	—	26	—	1	—
1944	16	—	10	—	—	—	33	—	1	—
1945	12	—	20	1	1	—	106	1	2	—
1946	6	—	11	—	—	—	43	—	8	—
1947	11	—	2	—	3	—	105	—	10	—
1948	25	—	7	—	—	—	140	—	14	—
1949	11	—	4	—	1	—	188	—	11	—

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in Ryton U.D., 1949.

Causes of Deaths.	Males	Females
All Causes ...	76	51
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...		...
Scarlet Fever	..	...
Whooping Cough ...	..	...
Diphtheria	..	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	...
Syphilitic diseases ..		
Influenza .	..	...
Measles ...	...	...
Ac : Polio-Myel: and polio- enceph ...	...	...
Ac : Inf. Enceph ...		...
Cancer of buc , cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	3	1
,, of stomach & duodenum ...	3	1
,, of breast ...	...	1
,, of all other sites ...	5	4
Diabetes ...		
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	8	12
Heart disease ...	20	14
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	2	1
Bronchitis ...	7	...
Pneumonia ...	1	2
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	...
Diarrhœa under 2 years	..	...
Appendicitis ...	1	..
Other digestive diseases ...	4	1
Nephritis ...	1	...
Puerperal and post-abort sepsis ...	...	...
Other maternal causes ...	...	
Premature birth ...	2	...
Congenital mal: birth inj: infant: dis....	2	2
Suicide ...	1	...
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	...
Other violent causes ...	3	1
All other causes ...	8	7
Live Births—		
Total ...	102	99
Legitimate .	99	94
Illegitimate ..	3	5
Still Births—		
Total ...	3	2
Legitimate ..	3	2
Illegitimate ...	...	..
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—		
Total ...	4	3
Legitimate ...	3	2
Illegitimate ...	1	1

Population ... 13,910.
Comparability Factor... 1·06.

FACTORIES ACT. Part 1 of the Act.

1—**INSPECTIONS** for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Written notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	34	15	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	34	15	1	—

2—CASES IN WHICH **DEFECTS** WERE FOUND :

Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient.....1. Remedied.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department during the year has been efficiently carried out, and the details will be found in the tabular statement appended.

Water Supply. The supply of water for the district is provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., with the exception of 17 houses which receive water from the mains of the Durham County Water Board and 15 houses in isolated parts of the district which have to depend on wells and springs

The mains water is of good quality, and the supply is continuous and plentiful.

Number of dwelling houses supplied from :

1.	Pub ic water mains direct to houses ...	3940
2.	Wells and Springs	15
		3955
	Population (Estimated) ...	13910

Rivers and Streams. No action taken.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewerage system which was last structurally improved in 1928 is now being surveyed with a view to improvements and to meet the needs of the future. All the sewage is discharged direct and untreated into the River Tyne by 3 main and 1 subsidiary outfalls.

Roads and Streets. A restricted amount of road repair has been carried out.

Rodent Control (Infestation Order 1943). Treatment of the sewers is carried out every six months for the destruction of rats.

Closet Accommodation. There are now in the district 4,182 water closets, 110 ash closets, and 19 ashpit privies.

Scavenging. The Council is directly responsible for the whole of the scavenging in the district. This is carried out under supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. and the service is efficiently maintained by the use of four motor refuse collecting vehicles.

The majority of the houses are provided with dust bins which are emptied twice weekly if necessary. The others are emptied once a week. Refuse is disposed of by tipping (controlled) in old quarries and is also used for land reclamation.

During the year 331,116 receptacles were cleansed; the estimated weight of refuse removed is 6,723½ tons.

Public Conveniences. New public conveniences, with accommodation for both sexes have been provided at Crawcrook and Ryton. A new convenience of a similar type is to be constructed at Greenside. The buildings are of modern construction, well fitted and lighted with a pleasing exterior.

Salvage. Salvage collection and disposal was actively carried out until July, 1949, when directions were revoked by the Minister of Supply. The total amount of salvage and materials collected are as given in the following table.

Year	Waste Paper	Metals	Textiles	Bones
	cwts	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
1940	1023¾	1182¼	110¼	84½
1941	1415	1491¾	157½	79
1942	1533	1319½	198¼	112½
1943	1180½	532¾	164¼	164½
1944	867¾	86½	165¾	93¾
1945	821¼	100	62	55½
1946	660¾	2¾	46	31
1947	839½	196¾	20½	36¼
1948	1147	73¼	42	36½
1949	739¾	92¾	25½	23

The totals being :		Tons	Cwts	Qts.
Waste Paper	...	511	8	1
Metals	—	253	18	1
Textiles	...	49	12	0
Bones	...	35	16	2

Total Value . £4,643 18s. 10d.

The Disinfection of Houses. During the year 16 houses have been disinfected. The bedding and clothes of the persons removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital are taken there and disinfected by steam. In other cases their cleansing is carried out at home.

In all cases of infectious disease disinfectants are supplied by the Council free of charge.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. One site on the river bank was periodically used for camping over short periods during the year. The site is not licenced and is regularly inspected when in use.

Three licences were issued in respect of temporary dwellings.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses:

	Found to be Infested	Disinfested
Other Houses	1 ...	1
Council Houses	1 ...	1

Instructions regarding disinfesting and cleansing are given and periodic visits made to infested houses until they are judged clean. The work is carried out by the tenants, and where property is unoccupied, by the owners. Fluid insecticide is supplied by the Council and pressure sprays are issued on loan.

It has been found that the active co-operation of the tenants of houses is necessary to ensure thorough disinfestation, as in most cases several applications of insecticide are required.

No action is taken by the Council to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before their removal to Council Houses.

Cinemas. There are two in the area, both of which are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Schools. The schools are modern with good sanitary arrangements. A good water supply is provided.

Factories. There are 34 factories on the register :

Building Trade Premises ...	10
Bakeries	4
Boot Repairing	8
Blacksmiths	1
Battery Charging	2
Garages	2
Watch Repairing	1
Painters ...	2
Welders	1
Brickyards	1
Wood-works	1
Golf Club making	1

Recreation Grounds. There have been no extensions.

HOUSING.

All complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions and structural defects are investigated and appropriate action taken when necessary.

During the year the Council completed the building 108 of houses on the Park Field Estate, good progress was made with the building of 104 houses at Greenside and a commencement was made with the building of 71 houses at Crookhill. It is anticipated that a commencement will be made at an early date with the building of 126 houses at Crawcrook.

Demolition Orders have been made on six houses and a Closing Order on one. One house has been closed on an undertaking given by the owners. There are a number of houses rapidly fall'ng into a dilapidated condition, the tenants of which will require re-housing at an early date.

This being a mining area and the land subject to subsidence, the Council have had considerable difficulty in the selection of suitable sites for development.

The majorty of the existing houses are of modern construction and most of them well-built; the new streets are well planned and there is practically no crowding of houses into confined yards and courts. In addition the district enjoys the natural advantages of being situated on rising ground and in being surrounded by open country.

Since 1st January, 1920, there have been built—

830 houses by the Council.

662 houses by private enterprise.

Back to back houses at Addison are being gradually converted into through houses with bathrooms and hot water systems. Present conditions are holding up progress in the reconditioning of the remainder of this type of house elsewhere.

Overcrowding. Reliable figures are not available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs. Food premises where food for human consumption is prepared for sale or sold have received particular attention with regard to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

An inspection of food shops in the area has disclosed the fact that many premises were not supplied with adequate washing facilities. Little difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the co-operation of occupiers of such premises and in most cases adequate washing facilities have now been provided, the benefits of which are appreciated by the employees.

There are 3 bakeries in the district. These are frequently inspected. They are clean, orderly and up-to-date in their general arrangements.

Meat Inspection. There are 13 slaughter houses, of which 5 are licenced, the licences of the remaider have not been renewed as all slaughtering, with the exception of cases of emergency slaughter and the slaughter of cottagers' pigs, is done outside the district. The retail butchers in the area have a central distribution point, but so far as practicable all meat is inspected before being removed to retail premises.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. Dealers' licences have been granted as follows: – "Tuberculin Tested" 10 ; Pasteurised, 7 ; Sterilised, 5

Ice Cream. Three premises are registered for the manufacture af ice-cream, in one of which the cold mixed process is used. The other two premises have been fitted with modern plant to meet the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations. The ice-cream is manufactured under very satisfactory conditions.

SUMMARY OF WORK done in the SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT during 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling Houses and Schools—				
Foul Conditions		—	—	
Structural Defects	50	2	50	
Overcrowding	—	1	1	
Lodging-Houses	—	—	—	
Dairies, Milkshops	2	—	2	
Cowsheds	27	—	27	
Bakehouses	—	—	—	
Slaughter Houses	—	—	—	
Ashpits and Privies	59	3	58	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	2	—	2	
Waterclosets	18	1	18	
Defective Yard Paving	1	1	1	
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps	—	—	—	
No disconnection from sewers	—	—	—	
Other Faults	24	—	24	
Water Supply	3	—	3	
Pigsties	—	—	—	
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	1	
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	
Other Nuisances	7	—	7	
Verminous Premises	—	—	—	
TOTAL	194	8	194	

WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.		
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	—	
" " " condemned as unfit for use	—	*113 Certificates of surrender issued.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	*	
Convictions for selling or exposing Unwholesome Food	—	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	—	
" " " found Adulterated	—	

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	No.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	16	Steam Disinfected at Hospital
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	16	
School do do do do	—	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions do do do do do do do	—	

GENERAL.	No.
Number of New Houses during year	93
Number of such occupied during year	93
Ash privies converted into Ash closets	—
do do do Water-closets	2
Ash closets do do do	—
Total Number of Water closets in District	4182
do Ash-closets do	110
do Ash pit privies	19